

**A. AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claims 1-5.

1-5. (CANCELED)

6. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus for retrieving Permanent Virtual Circuit (PVC) configuration information from a network device in a communications network, wherein the PVC configuration information specifies one or more PVCs defined for the network device, the apparatus comprising:
- a request generator configured to generate and provide to the network device a request for PVC configuration information stored in the network device;
  - a physical interface logically configured into a logical main interface and a plurality of logical sub-interfaces, the physical interface being configured to receive a message containing both the PVC configuration information stored in the network device and a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI), wherein the VPI and a VCI uniquely identify a PVC associated with the PVC configuration information;
  - a comparator configured to compare the VPI from the message to a first logical sub-interface number of a first logical sub-interface from the plurality of logical sub-interfaces; and
- if the VPI from the message matches the first logical sub-interface number of the first logical sub-interface, then cause the PVC configuration information from the message to be selectively stored into a first portion of a PVC configuration information storage that is designated for the first logical sub-interface; and
- if the VPI from the message does not match the first logical sub-interface number of the first logical sub-interface, then cause the PVC configuration information from the message to be selectively stored into a second portion of the PVC configuration information storage that is designated for the logical main interface.
7. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 6, wherein the comparator is further configured to if the VPI from the message does not match the first logical sub-interface number of the first logical sub-interface, then

compare the VPI from the message to a second logical sub-interface number of a second logical sub-interface from the plurality of logical sub-interfaces; and  
if the VPI from the message matches the second logical sub-interface number of the second logical sub-interface, then cause the PVC configuration information from the message to be selectively stored into a second portion of the PVC configuration information storage that is designated for the second logical sub-interface.

8. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 6, wherein:  
the request generator is further configured to generate and provide to the network device a second request for PVC configuration information stored in the network device;  
the physical interface is further configured to receive a second message containing both updated PVC configuration information stored in the network device and the VPI;  
the comparator is further configured to  
compare the VPI from the second message to the first logical sub-interface number of the first logical sub-interface from the plurality of logical sub-interfaces; and  
if the VPI from the second message matches the first logical sub-interface number of the first logical sub-interface, then cause the updated PVC configuration information from the second message to be selectively stored into the first portion of a PVC configuration information storage that is designated for the first logical sub-interface in a manner that indicates that the updated PVC configuration information is the most recent PVC configuration information for the first logical sub-interface received from the network device.
9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 6, wherein the request generator is further configured to:  
format the request for PVC configuration information stored in the network device into a request in a first format for PVC configuration information stored in the network device; and  
segment the request in the first format into a plurality of formatted request segments.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 9, wherein the first format is SNMP.
11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 9, wherein the first format is AAL5.
12. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 9, wherein at least one of the plurality of formatted request segments comprises an ATM cell.
13. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 6, wherein the request includes an ILMI getrequest command in SNMP format.
14. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 6, wherein the request includes an ILMI getnext command in SNMP format
15. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus for retrieving Permanent Virtual Circuit (PVC) configuration information from a network device in a communications network, wherein the PVC configuration information specifies one or more PVCs defined for the network device, the apparatus comprising:
  - a request generator means configured to generate and provide to the network device a request for PVC configuration information stored in the network device;
  - a physical interface means logically configured into a logical main interface and a plurality of logical sub-interfaces, the physical interface means being configured to receive a message containing both the PVC configuration information stored in the network device and a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI), wherein the VPI and a VCI uniquely identify a PVC associated with the PVC configuration information;
  - a comparator means configured to compare the VPI from the message to a first logical sub-interface number of a first logical sub-interface from the plurality of logical sub-interfaces; and
  - if the VPI from the message matches the first logical sub-interface number of the first logical sub-interface, then cause the PVC configuration information from the message to be selectively stored into a first portion of a PVC configuration

information storage means that is designated for the first logical sub-interface;  
and

if the VPI from the message does not match the first logical sub-interface number of the first logical sub-interface, then cause the PVC configuration information from the message to be selectively stored into a second portion of the PVC configuration information storage means that is designated for the logical main interface means.

16. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the comparator means is further configured to if the VPI from the message does not match the first logical sub-interface number of the first logical sub-interface, then compare the VPI from the message to a second logical sub-interface number of a second logical sub-interface from the plurality of logical sub-interfaces; and if the VPI from the message matches the second logical sub-interface number of the second logical sub-interface, then cause the PVC configuration information from the message to be selectively stored into a second portion of the PVC configuration information storage means that is designated for the second logical sub-interface.

17. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein:  
the request generator means is further configured to generate and provide to the network device a second request for PVC configuration information stored in the network device;  
the physical interface means is further configured to receive a second message containing both updated PVC configuration information stored in the network device and the VPI;  
the comparator means is further configured to compare the VPI from the second message to the first logical sub-interface number of the first logical sub-interface from the plurality of logical sub-interfaces; and  
if the VPI from the second message matches the first logical sub-interface number of the first logical sub-interface, then cause the updated PVC configuration information from the second message to be selectively stored into the first portion of a PVC

configuration information storage means that is designated for the first logical sub-interface in a manner that indicates that the updated PVC configuration information is the most recent PVC configuration information for the first logical sub-interface received from the network device.

18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the request generator means is further configured to:  
format the request for PVC configuration information stored in the network device into a request in a first format for PVC configuration information stored in the network device; and  
segment the request in the first format into a plurality of formatted request segments.
19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 18, wherein the first format is SNMP.
20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 18, wherein the first format is AAL5.
21. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 18, wherein at least one of the plurality of formatted request segments comprises an ATM cell.
22. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the request includes an ILMI getrequest command in SNMP format.
23. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the request includes an ILMI getnext command in SNMP format.